The Italicized Words in the King James Version

The King James Version of the Bible is the most revered and respected version of the English Bible. Its poetic and eloquent style has been regarded as the greatest book in English literature. This particular version of the Bible has withstood the test of time because it has been in existence since 1611, over four hundred years to be exact.

Although the King James Version is the best translation of the Bible into English, it was never designed to be a substitute for the study of the original languages of Scripture, Hebrew and Greek. In the King James Version of the Bible, there are words that are in italics, or slanted letters. These words in italics are used to add clarity to the text. However, it is interesting to know that these italicized words were not part of the original text. Because of this, it is imperative that the reader of the King James Bible understand this important fact.

When I was a young girl, I was given a burgundy King James Bible at the church where I attended. Even though I was given the best translation, none of the church members explained to me that to really study the Bible meant to go beyond the King James and learn the original languages. At the time, I did not realize that I was being sold short by not knowing this truth about the Word of God. For those who are young in the faith or new to Christianity, this is something that has to be told and not withheld from the believers.